

PRESS RELEASE

Artwork wins Brownsville fifth-grader Caribbean cruise

Nia-Isabella Garza, 11, earns top honor in Adopt-A-Beach Children's Art Contest

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AUSTIN — Nia-Isabella Garza, a fifth grader from Ortiz Elementary in Brownsville, is the grand prize winner for the Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest.

Garza's watercolor shows a child with a recycling bag picking up litter on a Texas beach. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson selected Garza's art from the more than 3,300 entries from across the state.

"This peaceful beach scene beautifully carries the Adopt-A-Beach message that Trashing Texas Beaches isn't cool," Patterson said. "Twice a year, youth just like the one in this watercolor learn a real-world lesson about the impact of litter on our beaches through the Adopt-A-Beach cleanups."

Garza's image, along with 39 runners up, will appear on the cover of the 2014 Adopt-A-Beach calendar.

The annual competition encourages schoolchildren to learn more about the Texas coast and express what they've learned through their art. Open to students in grades K-6 across Texas, the contest motivates thousands of young artists each year.

Garza's winning watercolor earns two round-trip, coach-class tickets from United Airlines to any United destination anywhere in North America, one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean International departing out of Galveston, Miami, or Ft. Lauderdale and a class party at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels. The grand prize winner's teacher, Irma DeLeon, also receives two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines and one 7-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

Ten winners were chosen from each of four grade-level categories (K – 2nd, 3rd – 4th, 5th, and 6th) for a total of 40 winners. One grand prize winner was chosen from among the 40 finalists.

All 40 winners receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, a ticket to the permanent exhibit hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, a ticket to the Houston Zoo, a certificate of recognition and prizes from the Texas General Land Office and a calendar displaying the winning artwork. This year's contest sponsors are Royal Caribbean International, United Airlines, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, the Texas State Aquarium, the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Houston Zoo.

For more information on the "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest, please contact the General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST or visit our website at www.texasadoptabeach.org.

2013 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest winners

Name	Age	City
Valerie Alvarenga	10	Houston
Kerigan Baumgartner	8	Victoria
Keerthi Bhoda	10	Spring
Eve Brogger	7	Victoria
Daniel Campos	9	San Antonio
Katherine Chapman	12	Liberty City
Megan Do	12	Orange
Alison Duncan	10	Corpus Christi
Rubí Escobedo	8	Dallas
Jennifer Fernandez	11	The Woodlands
Deyanira Garza	7	Houston
Nia-Isabella Garza	11	Brownsville – Grand Prize Winner
Jordon Geelhoed	11	San Antonio
Isaiah Gomez	10	Driscoll
Israel González	7	Houston
Maya Gonzalez	8	Houston
Elle Gorman	7	San Antonio
Anna Heavslar	10	Houston
Marissa Kapp	12	Houston
Carter Kickendahl	6	Victoria
Hyekyeong Lee	8	Corpus Christi

Jessica Liu	10	Katy
Lindsey London	8	Driscoll
Mia Mabray	7	Victoria
Yulisa Melendez	11	Houston
Jarely Mendez	11	Houston
Megan Miori	8	Victoria
Cho Young Park	8	Corpus Christi
Carley Petru	10	Victoria
Bella Pupi	4	Victoria
Cynthia Renteria	9	Driscoll
Nathaly Sainz	12	Brownsville
Kaela Smith	12	McGregor
Caroline Spence	10	Richardson
Ezra Suk	10	Katy
Emma Valdez	12	San Antonio
Anna Valenzuela	8	Victoria
Rachel Ward	11	Victoria
Christopher Webb	12	Sweeny
Malika Zahrooni	12	San Antonio

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